

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-15, 19, 21 and 22 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 16, 17, 18 and 20 have been canceled by this amendment.

Applicants note that a number of editorial amendments have been made to the specification for grammatical and general readability purposes. No new matter has been added.

I. Claim Objections

Claims 11-13 were objected to as allegedly being improper multiple dependent claims. Applicants point out to the Examiner that a Preliminary Amendment was filed on March 23, 2005 which removed all multiple dependencies from the claims. Accordingly, the Examiner's above-noted objection should be withdrawn.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 17-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Regarding claim 19, Applicants note that this claim has been amended as suggested by the Examiner so as to recite that a computer readable medium has recorded thereon a computer readable program. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 19 is directed to statutory subject matter under 35 U.S.C. 101. Regarding 17, 18 and 20, as noted above, these claims have been canceled by this amendment.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants kindly request that the above-noted rejection under 35 U.S.C. 101 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

III. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-8, 10, 16, 18 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Brosey (US 6,948,186).

Claim 1 recites the feature of a start data identifying section for generating information for identifying the start data in the buffer, based on the analysis result from the header analyzing section and the control by the buffer controlling section. Applicants respectfully submit that Brosey does not disclose or suggest such a feature.

Regarding Brosey, Applicants note that this reference discloses an apparatus for extracting messages from a digital data stream, wherein a message buffer is used to store extracted message portions, and a state buffer is used to store state data corresponding to the extracted message portions (see col. 1, lines 61-66 and col. 6, lines 2-6).

In Brosey, it is disclosed that a PID filter 104 provides START and END signals for four different types of transitions moving from packet to packet, with these signals being used during the header bytes, which allow enough time for the PID filter 104 to transition to the next packet for message processing (see col. 5, lines 63 through col. 6, line 2). As explained in Brosey, old control variable states and new control variable states are loaded during this time to and from the state buffer, which is separate from the message buffer (see col. 6, lines 2-5).

In the Office Action, the Examiner has taken the position that the above-noted ability of the PID filter to provide START and END signals for four different types of transitions moving from packet to packet, and the loading of the old and new control variable states to and from the state buffer corresponds to the claimed feature of a start data identifying section for generating information for identifying the start data in the buffer, based on an analysis result from the

header analyzing section and the control by the buffer controlling section (see Office Action at page 2). Applicants respectfully disagree.

First, in Brosey, Applicants note that the while the PID filter is able to provide START and END signals for four different types of transitions moving from packet to packet, that the mere generation of such a START signal does not correspond to the claimed feature of “generating information for identifying the start data in the buffer”, as recited in claim 1. In other words, Applicants respectfully submit that while Brosey utilizes the above-noted START signal for message processing, that such a signal is not generated information for identifying start data in the buffer.

Second, as noted above, claim 1 indicates that the information for identifying the start data in the buffer is generated based on the analysis result from the head analyzing section and the control by the buffer controlling section. With respect to this feature, as noted above, the Examiner has merely pointed to the disclosure in Brosey at col. 6, lines 2-6 which indicates that old and new control variable states are loaded to and from the state buffer.

Regarding such a position, Applicants respectfully submit that the mere loading of old and new control variable states to the state buffer of Brosey does not in any way whatsoever correspond to the above-noted feature in claim 1 which indicates that the information for identifying the start data in the buffer is generated based on the analysis result from the head analyzing section and the control by the buffer controlling section.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that Brosey does not disclose, suggest or otherwise render obvious at least the above-noted feature recited in claim 1 of a start data identifying section for generating information for identifying the start data in the buffer,

based on the analysis result from the header analyzing section and the control by the buffer controlling section.

Further, Applicants note that claim 1 has also been amended so as to recite the feature of a decode section for reading out data from the buffer with a predetermined timing, and for performing a decode process for the data read out based on the information for identifying the start data in the buffer, the information having been generated by the start data identifying section. Applicants respectfully submit that Brosey does not disclose or suggest such a feature.

In particular, as noted above, the Examiner has taken the position that, in Brosey, the START and END signals provided by the PID filter 104 somehow correspond to the information for identifying the start data in the buffer. While Applicants disagree with such a position for the reasons described above, even if the Examiner maintains such a position, Applicants note that Brosey clearly does not disclose or in any way suggest that a decode section is provided for performing a decode process based on the START signal provided by the PID filter 104.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that Brosey does not disclose, suggest or otherwise render obvious the above-noted feature recited in amended claim 1 of a decode section for reading out data from the buffer with a predetermined timing, and for performing a decode process for the data read out based on the information for identifying the start data in the buffer, the information having been generated by the start data identifying section. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over Brosey, an indication of which is kindly requested.

Regarding claims 2-8 and 10, Applicants note that these claims depend from claim 1 and are therefore considered patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

IV. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

A. Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brosey (US 6,948,186).

Claim 9 depends from claim 1. For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Brosey does not disclose, suggest or otherwise render obvious all of the features recited in amended claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 9 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

B. Claims 14, 15, 17, 19, 21 and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brosey (US 6,948,186) in view of Fuji (US 2002/0067744).

Claim 14 depends from claim 1. Applicants submit that Fuji fails to cure the deficiencies of Brosey, as discussed above, with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 14 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

Regarding claims 15 and 19, Applicants note that these claims have been amended to recite the features of a reading step of reading out data from the buffer with a predetermined timing; a separating step of separating, based on the information for identifying the start data, the start data contained in the data read out into start information and data; and a decoding step of performing a decode process for the data read out based on the start information.

For at least similar reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that Brosey does not disclose, suggest or otherwise render obvious the above-noted features recited in amended claims 15 and 19. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that Fuji fails to cure these deficiencies of Brosey. Accordingly, Applicants submit that

claims 15 and 19 are patentable over the cited prior art, an indication of which is kindly requested.

Regarding claim 21, Applicants note that this claim has been amended so as to recite the features of a start data identifying section for generating information for identifying the start data in the buffer, based on the analysis result from the header analyzing section and the control by the buffer controlling section; and a decode section for reading out data from the buffer with a predetermined timing, and for performing a decode process for the data read out based on the information for identifying the start data in the buffer, the information having been generated by the start data identifying section.

For at least similar reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that Brosey does not disclose, suggest or otherwise render obvious the above-noted features recited in amended 21. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that Fuji fails to cure these deficiencies of Brosey. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 21 is patentable over the cited prior art, an indication of which is kindly requested.

Regarding claim 22, Applicants note that this claim depends from claim 21 and is therefore considered patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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